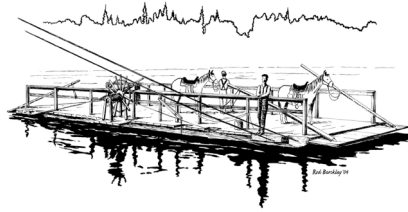




CITY OF BONNERS FERRY



9 March 2010

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: CECW-CE, Douglas J. Wade
441 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20314-1000
Email: douglas.j.wade@usace.army.mil

Cc: Honorable Mike Crapo
United States Senate
239 Dirksen Building
Washington, DC 20510
Email: karen_roetter@crapo.senate.gov

Honorable Walt Minnick
1517 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Email: shelley.landry@mail.house.gov

Honorable James E. Risch
United States Senate
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1205
Email: sid_smith@risch.senate.gov

Subject: Docket Number - COE-2010-0007
Process for Requesting a Variance from Vegetation Standards
for Levees and Floodwalls

This letter is to express our deep concern with the proposed Variance Process. For small communities with significant miles of levees and/or endangered species issues the proposed process creates a burden and potentially a negative impact on the river health.

The following components of the proposal, as we understand it, would make it particularly difficult and greatly limit the ability of valuable reasonable and prudent variances:

- Requiring the involvement of an engineer for all variances.
- Variances are location specific and not on a district level.
- Applications for variance that are processed at a national level instead of a district level.

Your process is forcing all regions of the country towards one standard. Due to the great variances in soils, climate, vegetation, and environmental issues in our nation this does not make sense. Currently the Seattle District has one variance for our region. This has stood the test of time, does not require a prohibitive investment for a local community, and provides consideration of the issues and concerns of our area.

If our community loses the existing Seattle District variance, we could not afford the time and money involved in development of a site specific variance. Further, the cost in public opinion, time, and money to bring our levees to another standard may not be feasible.

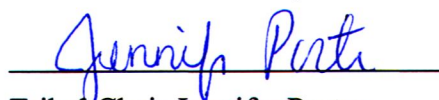
Additionally, there are significant potential impacts of the proposed process to the projects that that the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Bonneville Power Administration are implementing to restore critical habitat, protect endangered species and improve the river bank stability.

Our experience with the Seattle Regional office of the USACE has been excellent. We strongly feel that keeping variances at the district level provides the highest level of safety for our community and provides the best level of important coordination and customer satisfaction.

Sincerely,



Mayor Dave Anderson
City of Bonners Ferry



Tribal Chair Jennifer Porter
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho



Chairman Ron Smith
Boundary County Commissioners